

## Visalia veteran gets medals he earned 60 years ago

Rep. Devin Nunes presented four service medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, to Visalian and World War II veteran Wayne Houser in an informal ceremony.

Houser sought the congressman's help to obtain medals he earned 60 years ago as an Army Sergeant in Italy. Houser, 83, said he wanted to get the medals to pass down to his children.

In all, Houser is trying to get seven medals he earned—three of which (WWII Victory Medal, Air Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with Army Loops) are still on order with the National Personnel Records Center. Among those he will receive Wednesday are the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart from flak wounds while on a mission over Austria, WWII Service Lapel Button and the European-

Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

From the time he took office in January 2003, Rep. Devin Nunes has helped more than two dozen veterans in Fresno and Tulare counties get more than 40 medals they earned during their service in the military.

"Like Mr. Houser, there are thousands of veterans in the 21st Congressional District whose life stories remind us of the supreme effort and sacrifice our women and men in the military make on our behalf. Their stories are inspirational," Rep. Nunes said. "That is why early next year I will hold an event specifically aimed at compiling the personal tales of veterans who now live in the Central Valley."

The effort will be part of the national Veterans History Project, sponsored by the Library of Congress.



Visalian Wayne Houser and his family members pose with Rep. Devin Nunes. The congressman helped Mr. Houser obtain seven medals he earned during World War II. He received four Oct. 20 and the rest are on order with the military.

Dozens of volunteers will sit down one-on-one with veterans to record their personal stories. Those interviews, along with photographs, correspondence, and other memorabilia, will be sent to the Library of

Congress, and in some cases posted online for everyone to see. More details will be announced later.

### Valley from page 1

Central Valley in a press conference.

In addition, details of a groundbreaking federal study already underway will also be discussed. The study—initiated at the request of Reps. Nunes — compares the Central Valley to other economically depressed regions in the nation, including how federal resources are used in each. Rep. Nunes and five other members of Congress (Reps. Thomas, Pombo, Radanovich, Dooley and Cardoza) believe the study could show that the Central Valley is not getting its fair share of assistance from the federal gov-

ernment.

Both the Executive Order and Congressional Research Study could prove instrumental to the Regional Jobs Initiative, which can use the federal leverage and supporting data to seek assistance.

Members of the federal Interagency Task Force—including HUD Regional Director Dick Rainey, members of the Regional Jobs Initiative and representatives of several congressional offices were in attendance, along with Rep. Devin Nunes.

### CalFed from page 1

"The success of all CALFED program elements depends upon expanded and better managed storage, and this bill establishes a framework around that very fact."

According to the California Farm Water Coalition, the Golden States' agricultural exports are valued at nearly \$7 billion. Each \$1 billion in agricultural exports creates 27,000 jobs. That is 8.9 percent of all the jobs in the state. Additional storage gives the state more flexibility and financial relief in times of draught. Without increased storage, rate payers will continue to be subject to price spikes during

times of shortage.

"Congressman Nunes deserves a great deal of credit for the success we have today in securing water storage for California," Chairman Pombo said.

"By introducing his pre-authorization language to the CALFED debate, Devin helped focus the legislative effort on the importance of storage in a balanced program. As a result, we passed a landmark bill today that makes water storage the lynchpin of the entire comprehensive plan. I thank him for his dedication to this issue. It could not have been done without him."